(d) The complaint has been investigated by the Railway Vigilance as well as the Organisation of the Chief Technical Examiner, Central Vigilance Commission. The advice of the Central Vigilance Commission has been obtained and action is being taken in pursuance thereof. On the request of the complainant, security has been provided to him. He has also been transferred to North Western Railway on his own request.

Security to rail passengers

1400.SHRI DATTAMEGHE Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether maintenance of law and order and providing security to rail passengers and their belongings are the responsibility of State Governments, which they discharge through the Government Railway Police (GRP);

(b) whether Indian Railways bear 50 per cent of the expenditure incurred by each State on GRP;

(c) if so, the total amount the Railways owe to each State in this regard as on 31st March, 2005, with particular reference to Maharashtra; and

(d) by when, this amount is likely to be paid to the states concerned by the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. According to Entry No. 2 of the State List of the Constitution of India, 'Police' (including Railways and village Police), is a State subject. Prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains ae the statutory responsibility of the States. Therefore, providing security to rail passengers and their belongings is the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territories which they discharge through Government Railway Police (GRP). They are supplemented by the Railway Protection Force (under Ministry of Railways) since 01.07.2004 following the amendments to Railway Protection Force Act, 1957.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The total amount, the Railways owe to each State on account of GRP as on 31.03.05 is as under:—

S.N .	Name of State	Amount outstanding (Rs. In crore)
		2.20
2.	Bihar	10.61
3.	Chhattisgarh	2.23
4.	Gujarat	8.28
5.	Haryana	0.07
6.	Jharkhand	3.16
7.	Karnataka	6.15
8.	Kerala	1.44
9.	Maharashtra	52.34
10.	Madhya Pradesh	10.51
11.	Rajasthan	5.84
12.	Tamil Nadu	3.32
13.	Uttar Pradesh	4.08
14.	West Bengal	20.05
	TOTAL	130.28

The outstanding is mainly on account of excess operation of GRP Posts by the State Governments without the approval of Railway administration and non-submission of Accountant General's Certificate by the State Authorities.

(d) Railways have standing instructions to pay all clearly admissible bills.

Shortage of skilled engine drivers

1401. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are acute shortages of skilled engine drivers in the Indian Railways and therefore Government have decided to give extension to retiring rail drivers for further one year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and